

VZCZCXRO5382
PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAH #1094 2831018
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101018Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9520
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 2856
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0677
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0553
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 1129
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1330
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1807
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0589

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001094

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KIRF](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: ANOTHER RELIGIOUS GROUP TO BE
REGISTERED

REF: A. ASHGABAT 1040

[1](#)B. ASHGABAT 1089

[1](#)1. Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Timur Muradov, the pastor of the "Word of Life" Church, a small unregistered evangelical Christian group based in Turkmenbashi, called the Embassy October 10 to report that the Council on Religious Affairs Deputy Chairman, Nurmuhamet Gurbanov, had just told him that his church, which is an offshoot of the Turkmenabat-based "Source of Life" group that was registered just a few weeks ago (ref A), would be allowed to register as a local branch of the registered group. Just a week earlier, Muradov had told emboff that he thought his group would not be allowed to register (ref B). He was pleased with the news, which will allow his group to meet legally.

[1](#)3. (SBU) COMMENT: While branch churches occasionally run into problems with local authorities who do not understand the somewhat complicated legal basis under which branch groups operate, this is nonetheless good news for "Word of Life." Registration as a branch affiliation will allow his group a legal basis for importing Bibles, as well as for holding worship services -- and for appealing problems with local authorities to the Council on Religious Affairs. Post will continue to work on the registration status of other groups whose cases still have not been resolved. END COMMENT.
HOAGLAND